



NORTH WOODVALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Independent Public School

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SEVERE WEATHER RESPONSE POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Purpose

This policy serves as a guide to provide a safe and comfortable learning, work and recreation environment for students and staff at North Woodvale Primary School.

Extreme Weather Definition

The term covers a broad range of scenarios from wet weather that may include rain, hail, wind, lightning and thunder. It also includes extremely hot weather and heatwaves. The Bureau of Meteorology defines heatwaves as a time when the minimum and maximum temperatures are much hotter than usual for three or more days at a location.

Rationale

During extreme weather conditions, students, staff and the school community are at greater risk of health problems. North Woodvale Primary School aims to create a safe and healthy learning and work environment during these times.

Procedures

The Principal, or delegated school leader, is responsible for making decisions on the schools' response and communicating this to staff, students and parents when appropriate.

Strategies for managing excessive heat or heatwave conditions:

- Admin staff to assess conditions prior to each break during a period of forecast severe weather.
- Use air conditioning in all learning and work areas.
- Outside lessons, such as Physical Education, are to be undertaken in the mornings or in shade areas or modified for inside classrooms.
- Modify or suspend other outdoor activities during excessive heat.
- If students are outside, utilise shaded areas and provide less active and passive playground games.
- Access cooler areas of the school if air conditioning not operational.
- School lunch boxes are to be stored in classrooms where possible.
- Facilitate and encourage students to drink plenty of water.
- Students are reminded to apply sunscreen.
- Ensure students with additional support needs are appropriately supervised, including the monitoring of their hydration.
- When announced, teachers are to supervise students in their classrooms during recess and lunch times. This can be done in conjunction with neighbouring classes, so that teachers can access a break. Admin and specialist teachers to provide additional support.
- If weather permits, we will endeavour to give children time outside at recess, as lunchtime will probably be in classrooms and/or in the undercover area.

- A message explaining action to be taken will be broadcast over the P.A. System immediately prior to the recess or lunch break.

Strategies for managing wet/stormy weather:

- Admin staff to assess conditions prior to each break during a period of forecast severe weather.
- Outside lessons, such as Physical Education, are to be taken in the undercover area or modified for inside classrooms.
- Modify or suspend other outdoor activities.
- If students are outside when wet weather occurs, move immediately to covered areas, excluding seeking shelter under trees.
- When students need to move between areas, stay under cover where possible.
- When announced, teachers are to supervise students in their classrooms during recess and lunch times. This can be done in conjunction with neighbouring classes, so that teachers can access a break. Admin and specialist teachers will also support. Where practical, the A/V system will be used in the undercover area where students can assemble.
- A message explaining action to be taken will be broadcast over the P.A. System immediately prior to the recess or lunch break.